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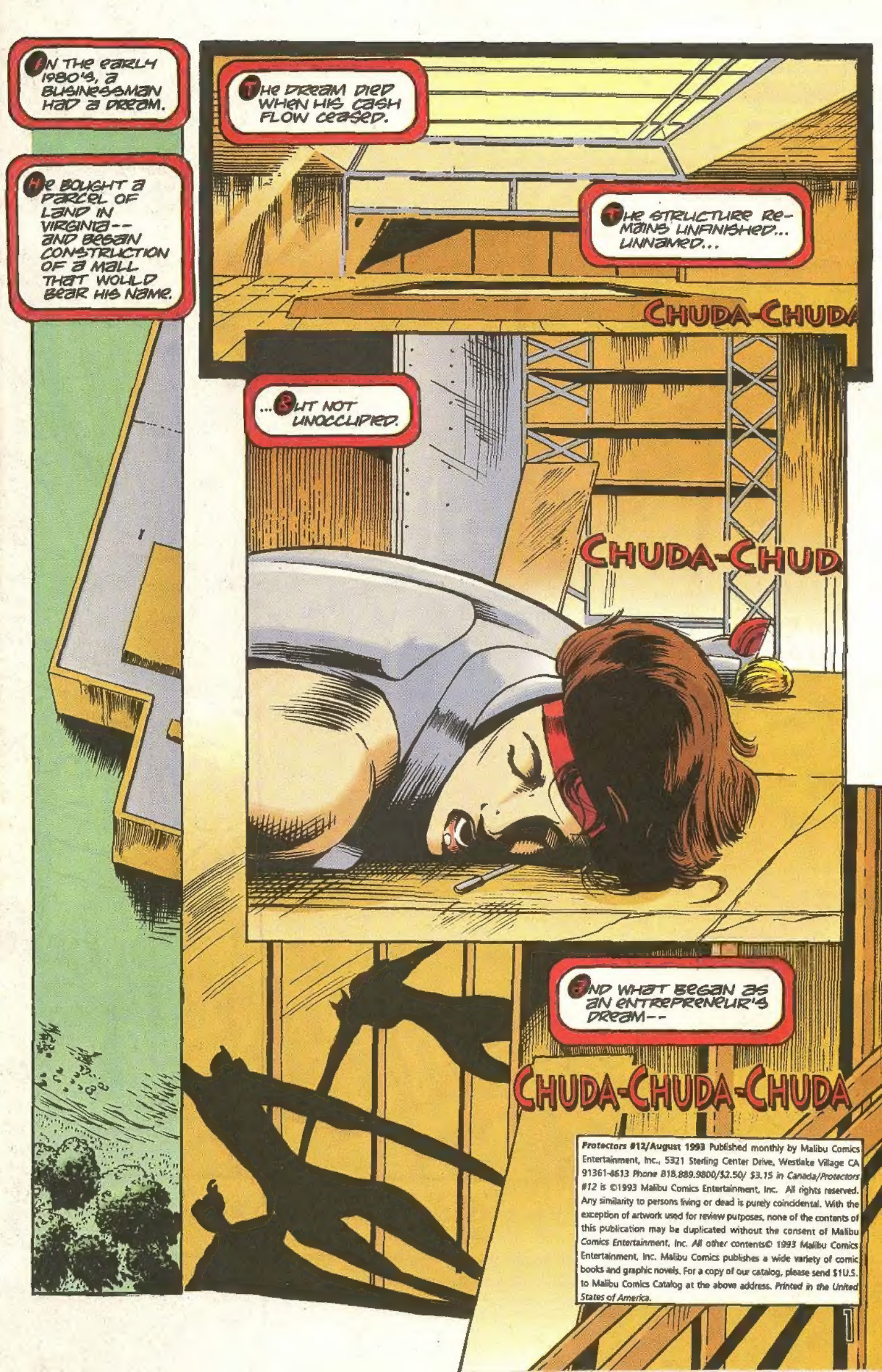
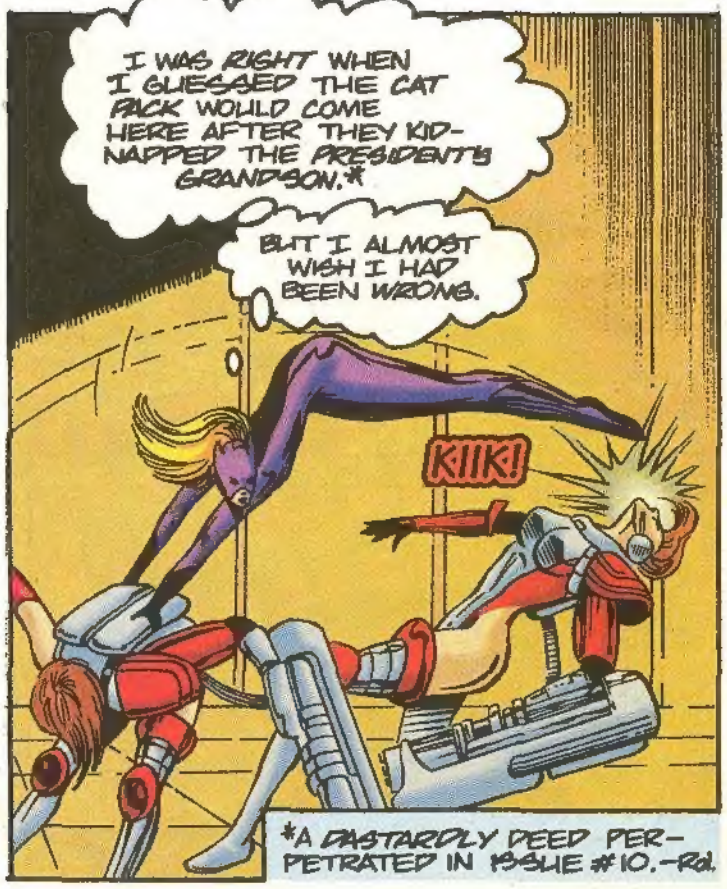


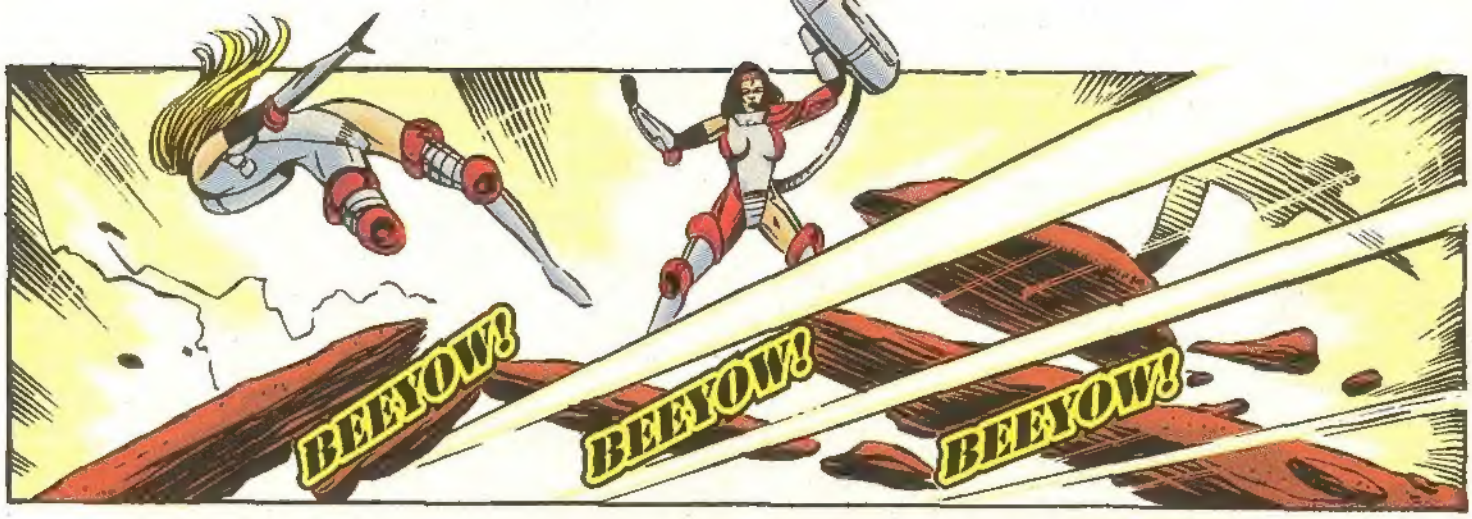
Protectors #12/August 1993 Published monthly by Malibu Comics Entertainment, Inc., 5321 Sterling Center Drive, Westlake Village CA 91361-4613 *Phone 818.889.9800/$2.50/ $3.15 in Canada/Protectors #12* is ©1993 Malibu Comics Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be duplicated without the consent of Malibu Comics Entertainment, Inc. *All other contents© 1993 Malibu Comics* Entertainment, Inc. Malibu Comics publishes a wide variety of comic books and graphic novels. For a copy of our catalog, please send $1U.S. to Malibu Comics Catalog at the above address. *Printed in the United States of America.*

--Has become a raging night-mare!
HELL HATH NO
FURY
CHUDA-CHUDA-CHUDA
An
R.A. JONES • Thomas DERENICK • Mike DeLEPINE • Roland MANN
Presentation


I WAS RIGHT WHEN I GUESSED THE CAT PACK WOULD COME HERE AFTER THEY KIDNAPPED THE PRESIDENT'S GRANDSON.*
BUT I ALMOST WISH I HAD BEEN WRONG.
KIIK!
*A DASTARDLY DEED PERPETRATED IN ISSUE #10.-Ed.

THIS IS THE PLACE MY AUNT STEPHANIE BROUGHT ME TO A FEW WEEKS AGO.
WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE LIKELY THAT SHE'S BLACK FURY -- THE LEADER OF THIS GANG!
THAP!

BUT I CAN'T LET MYSELF THINK ABOUT THAT NOW... THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE!
SHOO-SHOO-SHOO!


BEEYOW!
BEEYOW!
BEEYOW!

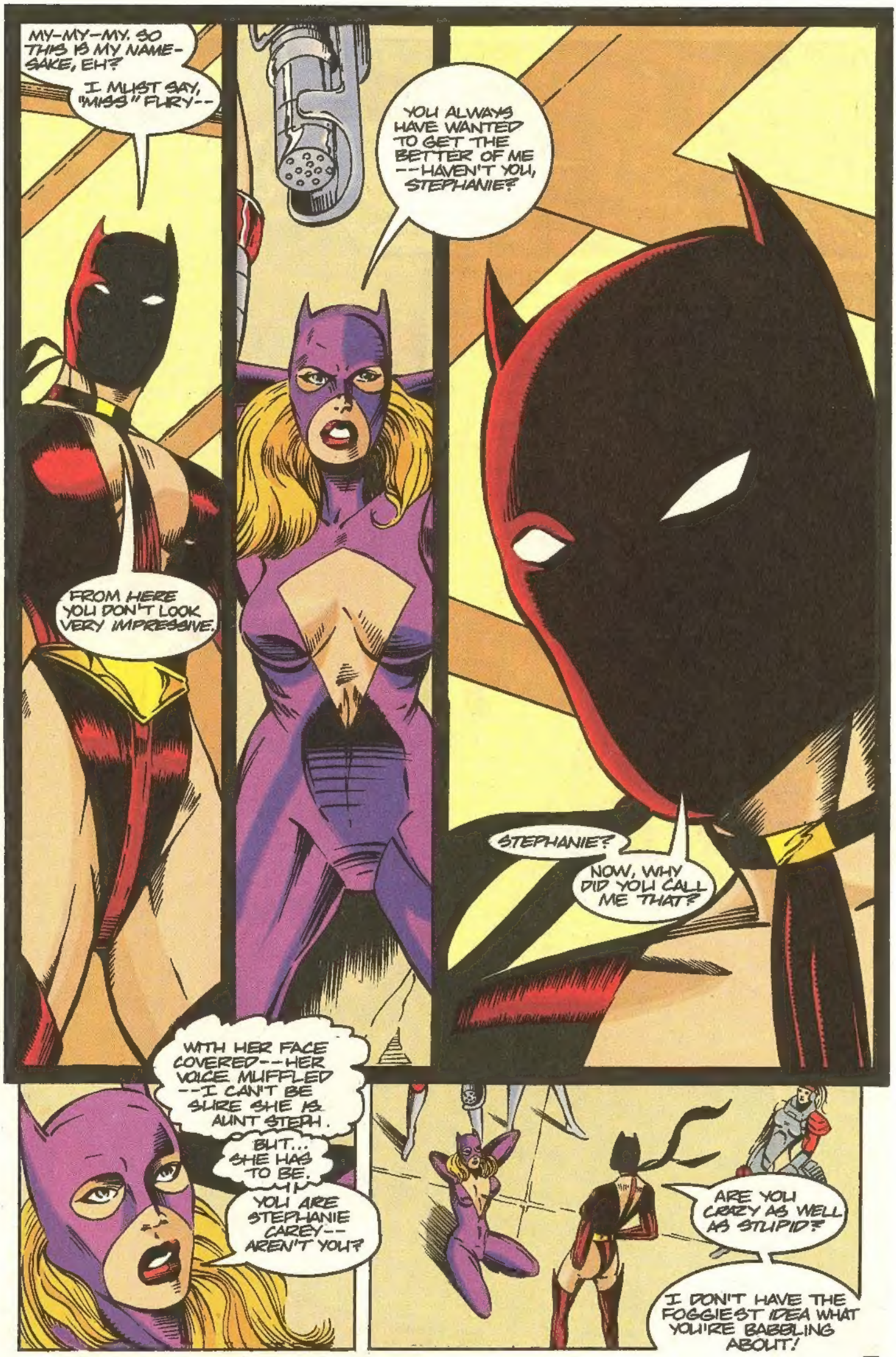
LISTEN TO ME! BELIEVE IT OR NOT --I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT.
I ONLY WANT TO TALK.

JUST TAKE ME TO BLACK FURY.
I SWEAR... SHE'LL WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

ALL RIGHT--YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE TO SEE HER. BUT YOU MAKE ONE MOVE I DON'T LIKE--
AND I'LL CUT YOU IN HALF!
GOOD. EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS BIDE MY TIME--

"--AND THEN LET THE PROTECTORS TAKE OVER!"
THE HIDDEN COMMUNICATOR WE GAVE MISS FURY SEEMS TO BE WORKING PERFECTLY.
YES. SHE'S DOING HER JOB WELL.
WE HAVE TO DO LIKEWISE.
AIR MAN--DO YOU COPY?
"ARE YOU AND ALIRA IN POSITION?"
THAT'S A ROGER, AMAZING MAN. WE'RE 100 FEET ABOVE THE MALL.
AND WE'RE PICKING UP MISS FURY'S TRANSMISSIONS LOUD AND CLEAR.
WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR HER TO USE THE DESIGNATED CODE WORD--

"--THAT'LL LET US KNOW SHE'S FOUND EXACTLY WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING THE PRESIDENT'S GRANDSON!"
DON'T LOOK SO DOWNCAST, MICHAEL. THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON -- ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
EITHER YOUR FAMILY WILL PAY ME THE RANSOM I'VE DEMANDED--
OR I'LL KILL YOU.
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
EXCUSE ME, BOSS -- BUT WE'VE CAUGHT AN INTRUDER.
SHE'S INSISTING ON SEEING YOU.
OH? AND DOES THIS UNINVITED GUEST HAVE A NAME?
YEAH. SHE CALLS HERSELF MISS FURY.
WELL -- I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO KEEP HER WAITING.
BUT DON'T WORRY, MICHAEL ...I'LL BE BACK.
OH, GOD...
...WHY WON'T SOMEBODY HELP ME?!!


MY-MY-MY. SO THIS IS MY NAME-SAKE, EH?
I MUST SAY, "MISS" FURY--
FROM HERE YOU DON'T LOOK VERY IMPRESSIVE.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE WANTED TO GET THE BETTER OF ME --HAVEN'T YOU, STEPHANIE?
STEPHANIE?
NOW, WHY DID YOU CALL ME THAT?
WITH HER FACE COVERED--HER VOICE MUFFLED --I CAN'T BE SURE SHE IS AUNT STEPH.
BUT... SHE HAS TO BE.
YOU ARE STEPHANIE CAREY-- AREN'T YOU?
ARE YOU CRAZY AS WELL AS STUPID?
I DON'T HAVE THE FOGGIEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WOMAN? STOP WASTING TIME--- AND FIND MICHAEL!
TIME MAY BE RUNNING OUT ON US, A-MAN. LOOK!
"IT'S ARROW!"
THE PROTECTORS DIDN'T BOTHER TO INVITE ME ALONG ON THIS RESCUE MISSION--
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THAT STOP ME.
IF I GO IN ALONE AND SAVE THE BOY--
THEY'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT ME AS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM!
"DAMN HIS HIDE...WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!"

Don't miss another issue!
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All orders sent by 10/16/93 - Get a Free Limited Ultraverse Poster!

RUNE

Barry Windsor-Smith & the Ultraverse unite with - Rune!

BATMAN

The gripping "Knightfall storyline continues in "Batman Knightquest" & Robin #1,2

	Reg. /Sale
Batman 502 (1st)	1 50/1.25
Batman Azrael Trade	$10/7.95
The origin of Azrael by Joe Quesada!	
Batman Devil's Workshop	$6/4.95
All new fully painted 64 page story!	
Batman Two Face #1,2	$5/3.95
Two issues with two, 2-part stories!	
Catwoman 5 (vs. Bane)	1 50/1.25
Detective 669 (1st)	1 25/ .99
Robin 1 (1st Print Collector Edit)	
(Fol cover - Reg. $2.95)	2.50
Robin 2 (Knightquest)	1 50/1.25

JURASSIC PARK

	Reg. /Sale
Cards Series II (Per Pack)	$1
Cards Series II (Sealed Box)	24.95
Jurassic Park Trade	$13/9.95
Polybagged with a new issue #0!	
Raptor 1,2 (New!)	2 95/2.50
★ Set of Raptor 1 & 2	3.95
Hot new series based on the movie!	

ULTRAVERSE

The hottest superhero line only gets hotter as Barry Windsor-Smith joins the Ultraverse with **Rune**! To celebrate, each Ultraverse title will contain 1 of the 11 **Rune** chapters plus 1 of 11 coupon for a limited **Rune #0**!

	Reg. /Sale
Exiles 3 (Rune Pt 2)	2 50/1.95
Firearm 2 (Rune Pt 3)	2 50/1.95
Freex 4 (Rune Pt 4)	2.50/1.95
Hardcase 5 (Rune Pt 5)	2 50/1.95
Mantra 4 (Rune Pt 6)	2 50/1.95
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Each titles contains 40 pgs. a chapter of Rune & a coupon for a Rune #0!	
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Solution 2 (Rune Pt 10)	2.50/1.95
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★ Rune Set (All 11)	$27.50/19.95
Save lots of money! Contains all 11 Ultraverse titles! A can't miss!	

VALIANT

Harbinger #25 features a "battle to the death" of a character! **Hot!**

	Reg. /Sale
Eternal Warrior Yearbook 1	$4/3.50
Valiant's first ever yearbook! 48 pgs!	
Harbinger 25 (48 pgs)	3.50/2.95
★ Special - 3 or more	2.50
Harada vs Sting in a battle to the death!	
Secret Weapons 5 (Ninjak)	2 25/1.75
Stars Ninjak & leads to his new series!	
Solar 29 (Valiant vision)	2 25/1.75
Solar the Destroyer in a solo story!	
Turok 7 (Truman art)	2 50/1 95
Valiant Vision Kit	2 95/2.50
Includes glasses, comic & poster!	

X-MEN

*X-Men fans don't miss **Gambit #1** - featuring the ragin cajun in his 1st series!*

	Reg. /Sale
Excalibur 71 (Hologram - 48 pgs)	$4/3.50
Gambit 1 (All new - Foil cover)	2 50/1 95
Wolverine 75 (Hologram - 48 pgs)	$4/3.50
Wolverine: Killing (48 pages)	$6/4.95
X-Men & Ghost Rider Trade (64 pgs)	$7/5.95
X-Men vs. Avengers Crossover!	
Avengers 368 (Part 1)	1 25/ .99
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X-Men & Ghost Rider Trade	$7/ 5.95

DARK HORSE

	Reg. / Sale
Aliens Labyrinth 1,2 (New!)	2 50/1.95
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Dark Horse Comics 13	2 50/1.95
Dracula Trade (Painted)	4 95/3.95
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The Shadow 1 (Kaluta)	2 95/2.50
Comic's Greatest World	
Next Men: Faith #1 (Byrne)	2 50/1.95
New series uniting Next Men & CGW!	
Vortex 1 (All new series)	2.00/1 75
★ Special - 3 or more (each)	1.50

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	Reg./Sale
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All new, monthly series! Knightquest!	

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Contains Batman Sword of Azrael #1-4 by Quesada!	
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All new original series! Each bagged with 3 cards!	
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Contains issues #1 4 plus a new limited issue #0!	
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All new painted card series by Marvel's top artists!	
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All new! Mixes cyberpunk & superhero action! Hot!	
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Violator returns! Written & illustrated by McFarlane!	
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Star Wars returns. Hot new 5-issue series!	
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Valiant Vision Starter Kit	$2 95/2.50
Includes 3-D glasses, a special comic & a poster!	
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IMAGE

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All new series by Mark Silvestri! Hot	
Cyberforce Trade (#1-4)	$13/9.95
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Images Shadowhawk 1,2	1 95/1 75
New Shadowhawk series! Giffen art!	
Maxx 5 (Kieth art)	1 95/1 75
Prophet 1 (New! - Liefeld)	2 50/1 95
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Savage Dragon 4 (Larsen)	1 95/1.75
Shaman sTears 5 (New!)	2 50/1 95
Spawn 14,15 (Violator!)	1 95/1 75
★ Special - 3 or more (each)	1.50
Hot new Violator story! McFarlane art!	
StormWatch 5 (Brett Booth)	1 95/1 75
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★ Special - 3 or more (each)	1.50
Trencher 5 (Keith Giffen)	1 95/1 75
Union 3 (Texiera art)	1 95/1 75
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Vanguard vs Supreme! All new series!	
Wild CATS 5 (Jim Lee)	1.95/1.75

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All new original full color series! Hot!	
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Contains first 6 issues plus Genesis #0!	
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Gambit 1 (Foil Cover)	2.50/1.95
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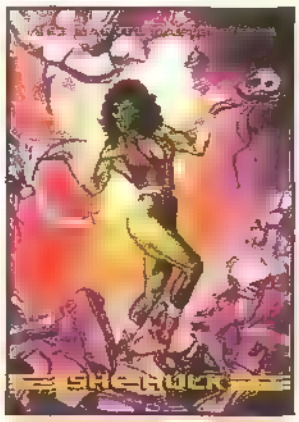

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Hot new 100 card series from SkyBox!	

VALIANT

	Reg./ Sale
Archer & Armstrong 18	2 50/1 95
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Dr Mirage 4 (New!)	2 50/1.95
Eternal Warrior 18	2 25/1 75
Eternal Warrior Yearbook 1	$4/3.50
Valiant's first ever Yearbook! 48 pages!	
Harbinger 25 (48 pages)	3.50/2.95
Hard Corps 14 (New story)	2 25/1 75
Magnus 32 (vs Malevs)	2 25/1.75
Rai: & Future Force 17	2 25/1.75
Rai Trade (w/ companion)	$12/9.95
Contains Rai #0-4 plus Rai Companion!	
Secret Weapons 5 (Ninjak)	2 25/1.75
Shadowman 21 (Darque)	2.50/1.95
Solar 29 (Solar Destroyer)	2 25/1 75
Turok 7 (Tim Truman art)	2 50/1 95
X-O Manowar 24	2 25/1 75

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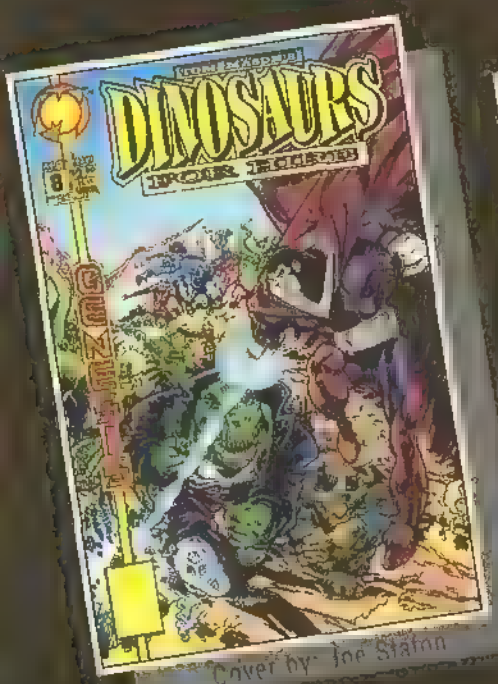
"Gone the minute they hit the rack"
--Russell McDaniel--Fat Jacks Comicrypt--Pennsylvania

GENESIS™

Don't Get Caught Short



"Ex-Mutants continually sells out
The Ferret really moves"
-Heroes and Legends-Agoura Ca

"100% sell-thru"
-Paul Duardi-Heroes and Villians

"Consistently Sells Out"
-Richard Stockton-LoneStar-Texas

"These books are made for comic readers"
-Garry Colabuono-Moondogs

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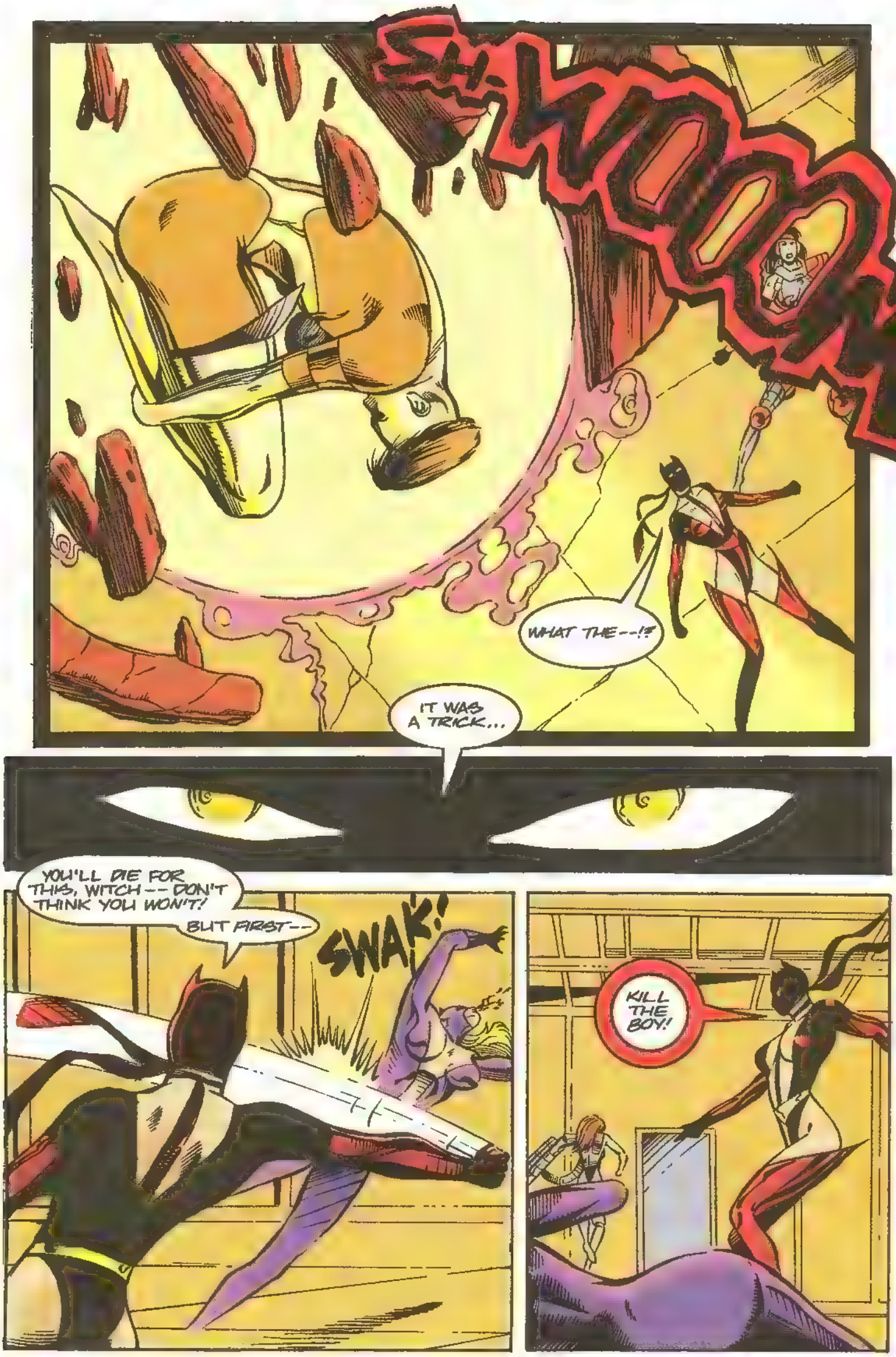
THAT BLASTED IDIOT! HE'S GOING TO RUIN EVERYTHING IF HE GOES BURSTING IN THERE.
AIR MAN-- DO YOU READ ME?
INITIATE OPERATION: CANNONBALL!
WE CAN'T DO THAT, JOHN! WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE WORD FROM MISS FURY YET!
IF WE GO CRASHING IN WITHOUT KNOWING MICHAEL'S EXACT LOCATION--
THEY COULD KILL HIM BEFORE WE HAVE TIME TO SECURE HIM!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT, MISTER.
DO IT NOW!
ARE YOU READY, MORGAN?
>SIGH< I GUESS SO, DRAKE.
ALL RIGHT THEN--

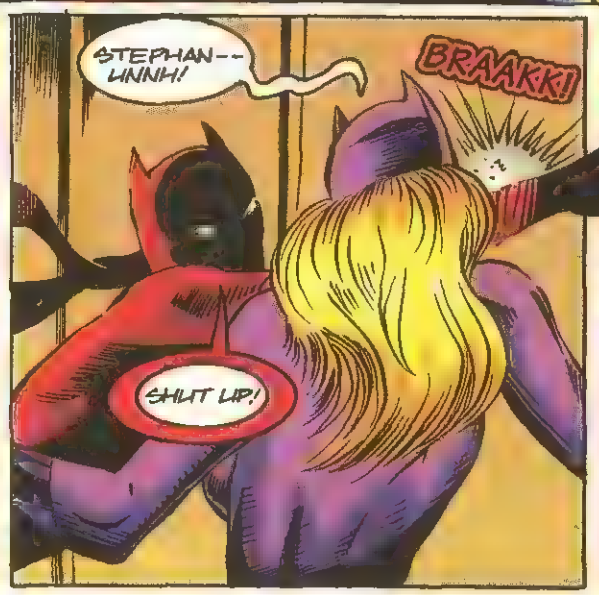
BOMBS AWAY!
I HOPE THIS MANEUVER WORKS AS WELL AS IT DID IN OUR TRAINING SESSIONS.
IF IT DOES, THEN ENCASING MYSELF IN A FORCE BUBBLE AT THIS VELOCITY--
WILL MAKE ME A VIRTUAL HU-MAN MISSILE!

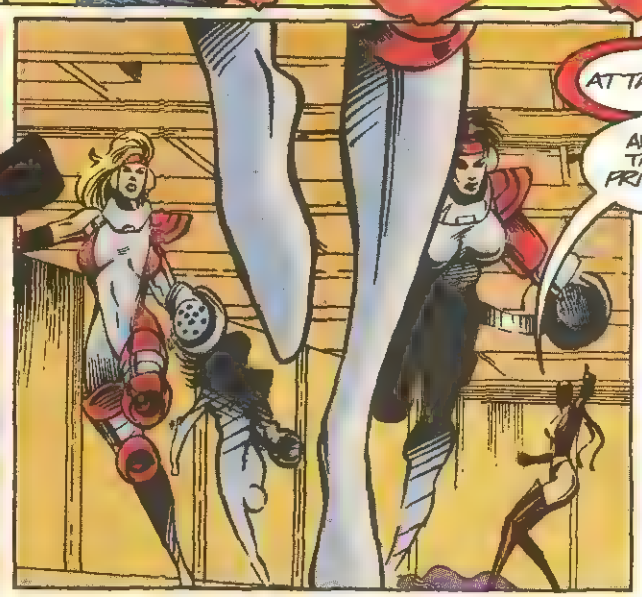

WHAT THE--!?
IT WAS A TRICK...
YOU'LL DIE FOR THIS, WITCH -- DON'T THINK YOU WON'T!
BUT FIRST--
SWAK!
KILL THE BOY!

DON'T HAVE TIME ...TO CATCH MY BREATH.
THAT HAS TO BE WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING MICHAEL--
AND I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM FIRST!
ONLY ONE CHANCE...
NOOO!
ZEE-OW!
WUMP!
MY FORCE FIELD WILL KEEP BOTH OF US SAFE--
UNTIL THE REST OF THE TEAM ARRIVES!

YOU CAN BE SURE THE OTHER PROTECTORS WON'T BE FAR BEHIND HER.
YOU'D BE WISE TO SURRENDER.
AND YOU'D BE WISE TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
SWAP!
DAMMIT--STOP CALLING ME THAT NAME!
WHAT'S THAT?!
I THINK WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT IS...
GIVE IT UP, STEPHANIE.
PLEASE.
RRMMBB

KRA-KAA-TOOOM!





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Black Fury takes on Miss Fury.
It's a Family Feud to the finish.

R.A. JONES THOMAS DERENICK BOBBY RAE

On Sale Every Month From

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≥UHH!≤ THOSE HI-TECH WEAPONS OF THEIR'S PACK QUITE A WALLOP.
BUT THEN... SO DO I.!
VEE? OOO!
TARUMMP!
SHAKOW!
KRRZZZ!
I'VE BEEN DYING FOR A CHANCE TO REALLY CUT LOOSE ON THESE SLIMEBALLS!
THEY'RE JUST LUCKY I'M TAKING IT OUT ON THEIR WEAPONS!
TAAZAK!

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EVEN DEATH MUST DIE!

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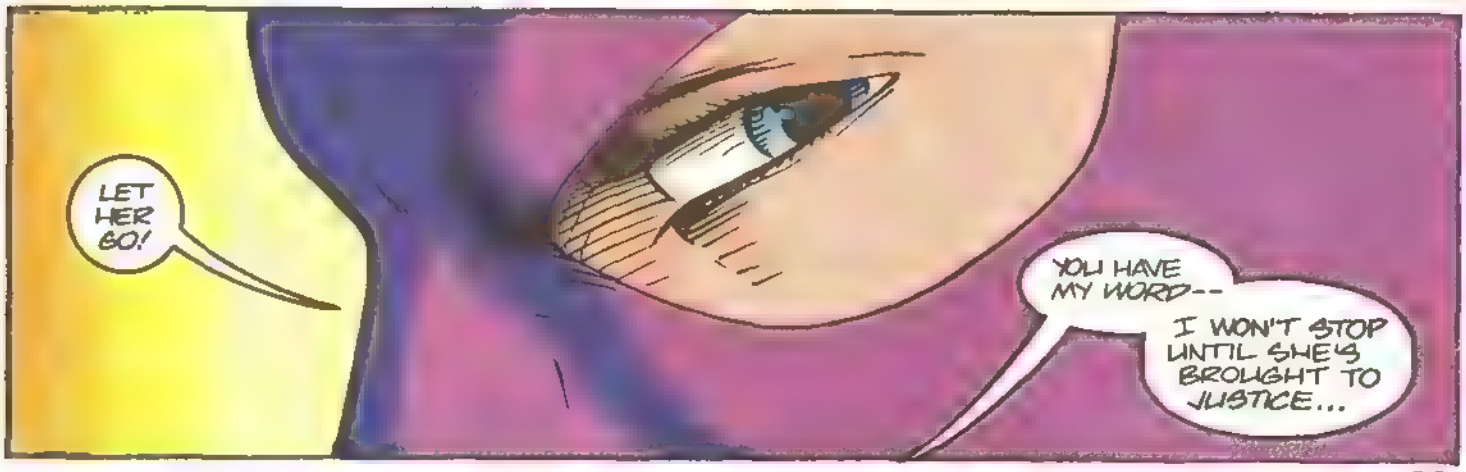
SO SAD. I HAVE WATCHED THE HUMAN DRAMA UNFOLD FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS...
AND STILL THERE IS MORE TO BE SEEN OF VIOLENCE THAN OF HUMANITY.
RRANCH!
I CAN SEE GREAT FEAR IN THEIR EYES.
PERHAPS THEY ARE NOT AS STUPID AS I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.
CHUDA-CHUDA CHUDA-CHUDA
DA-KOW!
I'M STILL NOT ACCHSTOMED TO THIS NEWFOUND POWER I HAVE--
BUT I'M BE-GINNING TO LIKE IT!

I HATE TO ADMIT IT--
BUT MISS FURY'S PLAN APPEARS TO BE WORKING PERFECTLY.
ZWINNG!
TEE-OOO!
KRANCH
OF COURSE, ANY PLAN--
ZUTCH!
--IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE WORK THAT GOES INTO MAKING IT SUCCEED.
ALIRA... IS THE BOY ALL RIGHT?
HE'S FINE-- ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
IS IT OVER OUT THERE?
NEARLY SO. ALL THAT REMAINS--

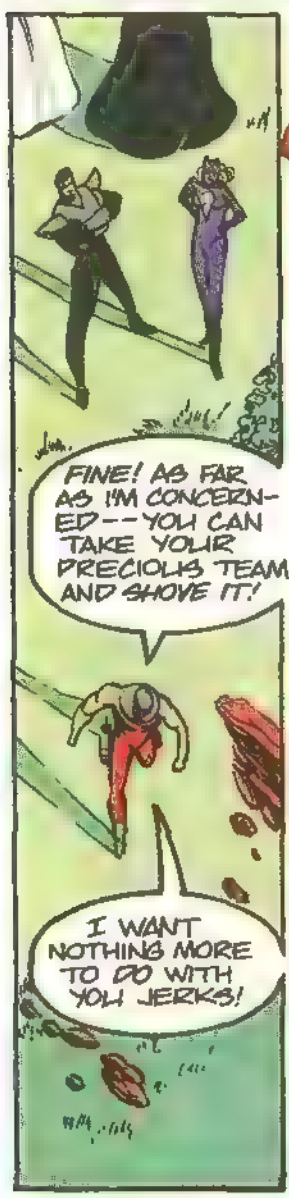
"IS TO CAPTURE BLACK FURY."
I'D HOPED IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS... BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
CALL IT QUITS, STEPHANIE.
IT'S ALL OVER.
SO IT IS, CHILD.
BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU EXPECTED!
YOU CAN'T KILL ME, STEPH.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T.
NO?
GO TO YOUR GRAVE BELIEVING THAT.
SHAAAKK!
OHHH!

DON'T MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, LADY--OR MY NEXT ARROW WILL BE AIMED AT YOUR HEART.
NO NEED FOR HER TO KNOW THAT'S WHERE MY FIRST ARROW WAS AIMED!
YAAAA!
RRRTCH!
THAT WAS A DETONATOR I JUST ACTIVATED. YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES--
AND THEN THIS MALL COMES DOWN LIKE A HOUSE OF CARDS!
BUT BLACK FURY IS--
WE'VE GOT TO GO WARN THE OTHERS.


LET HER GO!
YOU HAVE MY WORD--
I WON'T STOP UNTIL SHE'S BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...

"NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!"
BWA-THOOM
I'M STILL NOT CERTAIN THAT BLACK FURY IS AUNT STEPHANIE--BUT I AM SURE SHE ESCAPED THE EXPLOSION.
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY SOUL.
YOU PERFORMED A GREAT SERVICE TODAY, MISS FURY--AND ACQUITTED YOURSELF WELL IN BATTLE.
SO WELL THAT I THINK I CAN SPEAK FOR US ALL IN INVITING YOU TO JOIN THE PROTECTORS.
IT WOULD BE GREAT TO JOIN THEIR TEAM... BUT I CAN'T.
NOT UNTIL I UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT BLACK FURY!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, A-MAN!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU OFFERING HER MEMBERSHIP?!

I'M THE ONE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CONSIDERING--RE-MEMBER!
I'M THE ONE WHO HAD TO SAVE HER BUTT A FEW MINUTES AGO!
YOU'RE ALSO THE ONE WHO NEARLY RUINED OUR CAREFULLY-LAID PLAN OF ATTACK, ARROW.
BY BARGING IN ALONE--YOU COULD HAVE COST THE PRESIDENT'S GRANDSON HIS LIFE.


FINE! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERN-ED--YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PRECIOUS TEAM AND SHOVE IT!
I WANT NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH YOU JERKS!

I HAVE NO DOUBT HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS, FRIENDS. BUT MARK MY WORDS...
WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF ARROW.

I'M MORE HONORED BY YOUR OFFER THAN I CAN SAY, AMAZING MAN.
BUT FOR NOW--I HAVE TO DECLINE.

LET'S GO HOME, PEOPLE.

PROLOGUE:
1 ON ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL WORLD--WAR RAGES.
2 AN ANCIENT CASTLE STRONGHOLD IS ABOUT TO FALL.
AND WITH IT--
--3 OULD FALL A MULTITUDE OF WORLDS.
VIZIER...HOW GOES THE BATTLE?
I FEAR IT IS LOST, KING OKJOD. THE ENEMY IS AT OUR VERY DOORS--
AND WE HAVEN'T THE FORCES TO STOP HIM!
SHA-
KAAAM!

IT'S OVER, OK..KOD-- YOUR WORLD IS MINE. IT'S POWER IS MINE!
AND BEFORE I'M DONE---EVERY WORLD WILL BE MINE, EVERY WORLD WILL BOW DOWN BEFORE--
EX'TREME!
CONTINUED IN THE PAGES OF EX-MUTANTS #11. THEN BE BACK HERE IN THIRTY DAYS FOR THE SECOND CHAPTER OF THE EPIC CROSSOVER SAGA WE HAD TO CALL:
GENESIS!
TRUST US: WHEN THIS STORY REACHES ITS STAGGERING CONCLUSION... THE PROTECTORS WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER!

PROTOCOL™

Write To: Malibu Comics/Protectors
5321 Sterling Center Dr.
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Let-ters! We get let-ters! We get letters ever-y-day!!! (Sing to your favorite tune.) We received some strong letters this month, and you have some real interesting things to say. And let's say right now that we appreciate this kind of input. So let's read on. .

Dear Malibu,

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but you have recently been verbally assaulted in the pages of "Comic Book Week." I was flipping through it, skimming the articles, when I saw a picture of the Ferret and thought to myself, Wow! Finally I get to read a review of *Protectors*. But, shortly after I began to read, the smile left my face. The critic called your creators "less-than-skilled amateurs," who "fail at imitating the substance of mainstream comics." He then went on to cut-down *The Ferret* and called *Arrow* "an imitation Green Arrow with brains (and shooting skills) of a tape worm." Then he started on *Ex-Mutants*, which I won't go into. He said all Protectors villains were black or Asian and all the heroes were white, which is completely false. Anyway, I think that about sums it up.

After finishing the review (if you could call it that), I was so angry that I had to write and tell you about it. *Protectors* is in my opinion, one of the best books around. It's made up of characters who possess, for the most part, good morals and who, aside from their powers, are realistic. This guy probably didn't like the book because nobody got sliced and diced in it. I thought comics were supposed to entertain, which is exactly what *Protectors* does. He was busting on Arrow for being like Green Arrow, but the funny thing is, he didn't even begin to say anything about archers in other books from publishers such as Image. I personally like Arrow.

Finally, I'd like to say that few publishers take an interest in their fans like Malibu. I recently wrote a letter to you guys and before I had time to see if it got printed or not, I received a huge envelope in the mail. I was thrilled to death when I saw it was from Malibu. I opened it to find a Malibu postcard (handwritten to me) accompanied by a huge Protectors poster. You guys are the best and I thank you for both items. Even my girlfriend, who knows absolutely nothing about comics, was impressed that a huge (there's that word again) publisher actually sent me something (for free at that). Oh well, I just wrote to make sure that Malibu knows that its Protectors fans are still out there and that you can't believe everything you read.

Travis Justice
Jonesboro, AR

Thanks for being the watchful eye for the Protectors, Travis. And we're glad you're willing to make your own decisions and to not be influenced by other people's opinions. It's the quality of a leader to be able to stand up for what you like and what you believe in. Golly! I think I hear the Battle Hymn Republic in the background. And enjoy the gifts, we're trying to get something out to all those who write in.

Dear Protectors Crew,

Today, I was in the process of re-reading the entire *Protectors* series when I decided to actually take an in-depth look at the Malibu Comics back issues pages. *Protectors*, I must admit, is the first and only book I have ever purchased from Malibu (including any and all *Protectors* universe-related books and the books from Image when they were still under your guiding light). So, I am not really all that familiar with 99% of the material that you were offering.

However, some of the items piqued my curiosity. Many of the ones that grabbed my attention seem like super-hero books, but as I had said before, I am completely unfamiliar if they are or not. Some of them, right off, I was almost certain were super-hero related (*The Bat, Cat & Mouse, Southern Squadron, Miss Fury* and *Dark Wolf*) because I had heard the slightest info on them. The others (*Cat Claw, Headless Horseman, Johnny Atomic, Liberator, Rocket Ranger, Silver Storm*, and the *Twilight Avenger*) I was absolutely oblivious to. But they all sounded extremely interesting.

Now I know Miss Fury is slated to show up in the pages of the *Protectors*. I think it would be really fantastic (providing those characters or books I mentioned are hero books) if the other ones I mentioned eventually find their way into the pages of *Protectors*, as well. Not only would it broaden the Protectors universe, but it would also bring more notoriety to older Malibu characters. Why not? Especially since the *Twilight Avenger, Rocket Ranger* and the *Liberator* sound so Golden Age-esque. You know me... Always looking to further and broaden the modern day Golden Age.

Anyway, here's to the Protectors gaining a whole truck load of new friends and allies and a continued run of great super-hero storytelling. Keep up the awesome work!

Until I write again....

Rob Running Water
Summit Hill, PA

What a neat idea, Rob! I tell ya, great minds must think alike... Keep an eye out for the Malibu Sun *#30 for the introduction of* Cat & Mouse *and check out* Man of War *#6 as the new Rocket Ranger flies on to the scene. As for* The Liberator, *we'll need to talk to our new Art Director, Jim Chadwick, a new Malibu-ite from DC Comics. Welcome aboard, Jim!!!*

Dear R.A. and Company,

After eight issues, I still have mixed feelings about *Protectors*, but I'm still buying it. The first few issues went kind of slow as you set up the team and established the characters, but now things are really starting to pick up.

The art was also a stumbling block for me, originally, but it too is getting better. The page layouts and graphic effects are getting more interesting. As for the covers clearly S. Clarke Hawbacker has done the best ones, but I think the overall package comes off better with Derenick and Mike Miller on the cover. The covers of newsstand editions #1, 3, and 8 are the best one they have done. Jennifer Schellinger has given us the most colorful cover with #8, too.

I realize that it's hard to be original with super-heroes, but that isn't necessarily a problem. I like Man of War precisely because of his leadership skills and patriotic motif a la Captain America, another favorite of mine. I also don't mind Eternal Man's similarities to Doctor Fate. The Arrow is way too much like Hawkeye to suit me, and Wisecrack is too "Joker-ish." The Ferret may be an original name; it is also a silly name to me.

One of the things I like about team books is the chance to compare and contrast the different characters and their beliefs and philosophies. I especially like the power struggle that is developing among Man of War, The Ferret, and Amazing Man. I also think that Mighty Man and one of the female characters, most likely Marcia Beckworth (the new Night Mask) should also have strong roles in the team structure.

Speaking of Night Mask, I must say I love the costume and the name. I am also partial to super-heroes with little or no superpowers (like Captain America or Batman) and was saddened first by the death of the second Night Mask, then by the discovery that the new Night Mask does have incredible powers. Oh well.

Given her character as developed, I think Marcia Beckworth would be a little embarrassed by the plunging V-line of the Night Mask costume. I think an undershirt might be in order, guys. Also, while it would make sense for Arc or the Witch, I think an older woman who is a mother and a wife would have trouble wearing a costume as revealing as Aura's new one.

The new storyline is coming along well. The subplots have been handled well, without detracting too much from the main storyline. I'm also excited that the Protectors are in another dimension, facing weird denizens. The "save the universe" stories aren't really my cup of tea, either. However, I do think super-heroes not just as heroes but also as adventurers who explore the unusual, extraordinary, and the unknown in almost any variety of settings.

As for future stories, there are any number of possibilities that could be used. The Protectors' "no-kill" clause should continue to provide material. While I understand the reason for the clause and while I don't particularly care for some of the dark, violent grittiness of some of today's comics, I think it is entirely possible that a super-hero (perhaps Man of War) could get into a kill-or-be-killed situation. It looks like you are planning to use some political intrigue very soon. The Senate Committee hearings was a good bit. The possible alcoholism and family problems of Aura lurks in the background. Amazing Man's berserker rages are interesting, but they would have more depth if there were a good reason for them, like some sort of emotional trauma, and not just that he was going insane for no particular reason than to spice up the story.

Since we're dealing with heroes, there's the ever popular vigilantism/justice issue, which could be combined with gun control and the legal system for more depth or a longer story. I can also see the Protectors losing government funding and government sanction. Other ideas abound.

Keep up the good work and I will soon be over my ambivalence.

Michael Clem
Tulsa, OK

We hope you're along for the long run, Michael. It looks like you are. You've definitely highlighted some of the issues that have been introduced already; but as for as the answers, you'll have to wait. You won't find any loose lips on this page.

Dear Protectorate,

I may be too late as I am a vicious procrastinator, but here is my bid for the lettercol title: Projectors! And while I am here, let me just say that I always enjoy your comic and find that it can hold many moods (e.g. serious, comic, gritty, etc.) and never be dominated by that mood like many other comics. A comic that is always gritty can get boring. In other words, your comic is never boring.

P.S. Your force-beam cover was cool, and you can tell Adhesive Comics to blow it out their own holes.

Craig Hoehne
Longview, WA

You're right, Craig! Just look at the top o' the page and you'll see that we have a winner! The winner was announced last issue. Sorry, dude! But hey, we're always happy to hear how much you like the books, and we sure ain't here to bore you.

– Roland Mann

NEXT ISSUE:

GENESIS is here... and wait until you see what we have in store. But, before you read next issue, you should check out GENESIS chapters 1 [illegible] in *Ex Mutants* #11 and *Dinosaurs For Hire* [illegible]

THE POWER OF LIFE
THE POWER OF DEATH
THE POWER OF WAR

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August 1993

Club Malibu™

Extra! Extra!

Hi y'all!
The nation is having a tough time; floods along the Mississippi River and a drought in the southeast, but here at Club 'BU it's one hot summer!!! And we're bringing all the cool titles straight to ya!

We have a real reason to celebrate this month. That's right, *Ex-Mutants* #10 is our 7th Anniversary issue! It was seven years ago that the first Ex-Mutants title saw print, and it just keeps getting better! Darick Robertson (*The Night Man, New Warriors* artist) is the cover artist for this special issue, while Brandon McKinney and Thomas Florimonte, Jr. supply the interiors. We've come a long way from the original Ex-Mutants which began with Ron Lim as the regular artist back in the black and white Eternity days, so let's hear it for all those Ex-Mutants fans.

The best horror in comics continues with Brian Lumley's *Necroscope Book II: Wamphyri*, adapted by Martin Powell and painted by hot new artist, Dave Kendall. *Necroscope Book II: Wamphyri #1* includes an introduction by Brian Lumley.

Beam me up! This month Malibu Comics brings you the year's hottest television sci-fi series *Star Trek®: Deep Space Nine*™ as its own monthly comic book title. Get ready for all new adventures with the crew of Deep Space Nine and their struggle to keep the wormhole in safe hands. Veteran Star Trek writer, Mike W. Barr scripts *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* #1, along with veteran artists, Gordon Purcell and Terry Pallot, who come aboard as the regular artists on the series.

And the parody never quits with *Dinosaurs For Hire#7*, this month's cover is a poke at *Turok: Dinosaur Hunter*. That's right, Tom Mason digs the arrow in deeper with "Turret: Hunter O' Dinosaurs."

Cover of the Month

MALIBU COMICS™ • Checklist

- ☐ *DINOSAURS FOR HIRE™ #7*
- ☐ *EX-MUTANTS™ #10*
- ☐ *THE FERRET™ #4*
- ☐ *GRAVESTONE™#2*
- ☐ *MAN OF WAR™ #5*
- ☐ *THE MIGHTY MAGNOR™ #6*
- ☐ *PROTECTORS™ #12*
- ☐ *STAR TREK:DEEP SPACE NINE™ #1*
- ☐ *NECROSCOPE II: WAMPHYRI #1*

And don't forget your favorite titles from the *ULTRAVERSE™* and ETERNITY COMICS brought to you by Malibu Comics.

MALIBU

News!

Next month—GENESIS!!! It's an all-new story arc that will change the way you read *Protectors, Dinosaurs For Hire*, and *Ex-Mutants*. It's gonna be EXTREME—be there at the beginning!!! And keep your eyes open for *Genesis* #0 featuring a chromium wrap-around cover by George Perez—it looks great! Don't miss out on the action with *The Ferret, Gravestone*, and *Man Of War*; each of these titles will be directly tied into the Genesis story line.

Additional Credits to: *Protectors #12*

Lurene Haines: Direct Cover Artist
Thomas Derenick/Mike Miller: Newstand Cover Artists
Gloria Vasquez: Newstand Cover Colorist
Albert Deschesne: Interior Color Design

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